

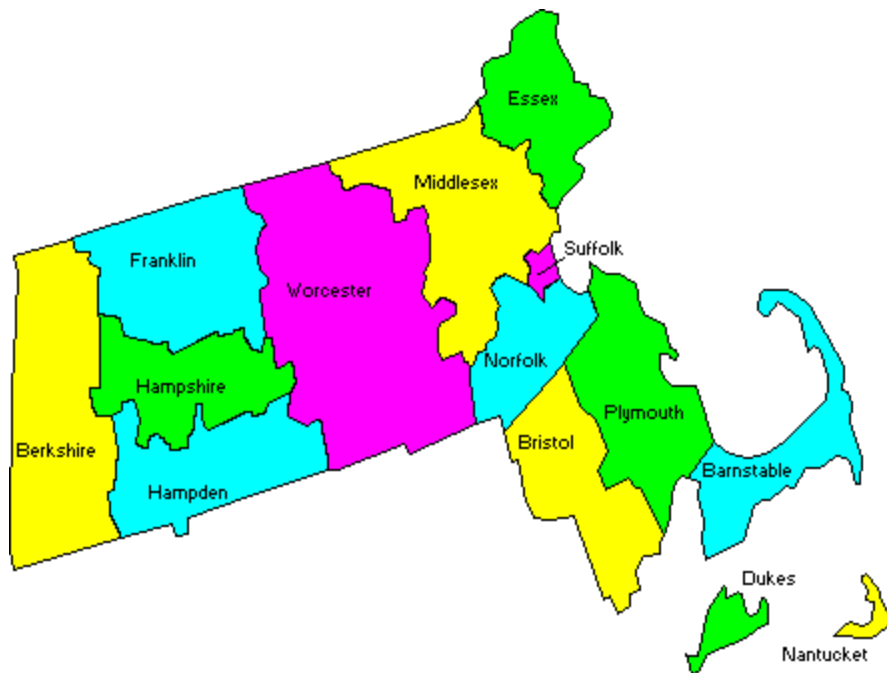
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Massachusetts

Profile of Drug Indicators

July 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Massachusetts

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics¹

- Population: 6,175,169 (1999 estimate); 6,016,425 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 89.8% white; 5.0% African American; 0.2% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 2.4% Asian/Pacific Islander; 2.6% other; 4.8% Hispanic
- Sex: 48% male; 52% female
- Capital: Boston

Politics²

- Governor: Paul Cellucci
- Lieutenant Governor: Jane Swift
- Attorney General: Tom Reilly
- U.S. Senators: Edward Kennedy (D); John Kerry (D)
- U.S. Representatives (Districts 1-10, respectively): John W. Olver; Richard E. Neal; James P. McGovern; Barney Frank; Martin T. Meehan; John F. Tierney; Edward J. Markey; Michael E. Capuano; John Joseph Moakley; William D. Delahunt
- Executive Director, Governor's Alliance Against Drugs (GAAD): Michael C. Mather

Programs/Initiatives

- New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)³
This HIDTA was designated in 1999 due in part to the high purity heroin found throughout New England, and the criminal groups trafficking heroin and crack cocaine from New York to New England. In Massachusetts, the New England HIDTA is responsible for Suffolk, Essex, Worcester, Plymouth, and Hampden Counties. The primary mission of this HIDTA is to target, investigate, and prosecute violent criminal offenders who are responsible for the distribution of high purity heroin, cocaine, and crack.
- Governor's Alliance Against Drugs (GAAD)⁴
GAAD was created in 1985 and works alongside the Department of Education. A significant portion of the annual federal funding that GAAD is awarded is distributed into the cities and towns that make up the Commonwealth in the form of mini-grants. Specifically, GAAD funds such things as initiatives geared towards teenagers who are at risk of engaging in drug abuse and peer leadership programs.
- FY 1999 Drug-Free Communities Support Program Grantees awarded by ONDCP and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)⁵:
 - \$100,000 to Community Anti-Drug Coalition, Inc. of Springfield
 - \$98,475 to Massachusetts General Hospital of Revere
 - \$99,610 to New Bedford Prevention Partnership, Inc. of New Bedford
- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁶:
 - Chelsea: Chelsea, one of the original sites awarded funding from Operation Weed and Seed in 1992, is located in the Boston metropolitan area. The initial Target Area was the Shurtleff-Bellingham neighborhood in downtown Chelsea. Because

- the initial community efforts were so successful, the scope of the program was expanded to include the entire city. Chelsea measures almost 2 miles and is home to approximately 40,000 people (10,000 of which are undocumented immigrants). 50% of Chelsea's population is Latino, 35% white, 12% Southeast Asian and 2% African American. Around 24% of this population live below the poverty level.
- Woburn: Woburn has been recognized as an official Weed and Seed site since 1996. The downtown area of Woburn has been chosen as the Target Area due to the high crime rate, high rate of drug sales, and large amount of public housing, among other things. Woburn is located 12 miles northwest of Boston. The Office of the Mayor, Woburn Police Department and the Woburn Housing Authority have focused on weeding out the drug sources and gang activity. The Woburn Police Department and Housing Authority have implemented a community-policing plan. Presently, their efforts are combined in a united front with the tenants against drug dealers and the criminal element.
 - Additional Weed and Seed sites can be found in the following areas: Boston and Lowell.
- The "Cops and Kids" anti-drug program specifically targets youth in grades six through eight during the at-risk, after school hours of 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. In its first year of implementation, \$1 million in grants were provided to 20 pilot communities for the development of innovative, comprehensive programs that would best fit the needs of their youth.⁷

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- In 1998, there were 2,197 juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations in Massachusetts.⁸

Arrests in Massachusetts, 1998

Offense	Juveniles	Total
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	6	84
Forcible rape	70	526
Robbery	373	1,529
Aggravated assault	2,217	13,804
Burglary	1,046	3,443
Larceny-theft	2,929	12,718
Motor vehicle theft	344	979
Arson	54	114
Drug abuse violations	2,197	17,398
Driving Under the Influence	154	11,927
Liquor laws	1,323	4,603

- Since 1991, the total crime rate for Massachusetts has dropped 35%.⁹
- In calendar year 1997, arrests by Boston police for cocaine and its derivatives constituted 47% of all controlled substance arrests. At this same time, heroin arrests and marijuana arrests accounted for 23% and 26%, respectively.¹⁰
- Arrests for drug possession represented 68% of all drug arrests made in Massachusetts during 1997.¹¹

- Arrests for the sale and manufacturing of opium, cocaine, and derivatives (heroin, morphine, and codeine) represented 74% of all sale and manufacturing arrests during 1997 and 39% of possession arrests.¹²
- Over 1/3 (38%) of all persons arrested for a drug offense were arrested for the possession of marijuana. Among possession arrests only, marijuana constituted 56% of those arrests.¹³
- From 1996 to 1997, arrests for the sale or manufacturing of synthetic drugs increased by almost 9.5%.¹⁴

Percent of Drug Arrests, by Drug and Offense Type, Massachusetts, 1997

Drug Type	Sale/ Manufacturing		Possession
Opium, Cocaine, and Derivatives	74.3%		38.9
Marijuana	23.1		56.1
Synthetic Drugs (incl. Demerol, Methadone)	1.5		1.3
Other (Barbiturates, Benzedrine)	1.1		3.7

Drugs¹⁵

- Several characteristics influence drug trends in Boston and throughout Massachusetts:
 - Proximity to Interstate 95, which connects Boston to all major cities on the east coast, particularly New York
 - A well-developed public transportation system that provides easy access to communities in eastern Massachusetts
 - A network of State and interstate highways
 - Two international airports and an expanding domestic travel airport
 - A growing homeless population
- Cocaine and Crack

Cocaine, especially crack, remains Boston's number one illicit drug of abuse. Crack is the predominant form of cocaine found in the inner city, and cocaine hydrochloride (HCl) seems more prevalent in Boston's outlying communities. According to the DEA, sources for cocaine remain primarily New York, Puerto Rico, and the southwestern border, with Colombian, Dominican and Jamaican nationals still the major traffickers. In adolescent focus groups across Massachusetts, cocaine was mentioned frequently as a drug that teens might "graduate" to after growing bored with marijuana.
- Heroin

Heroin indicators continue to rise in Boston. Over the past few years, heroin has established itself in Boston and throughout Massachusetts as a close second to cocaine. Heroin is widely available throughout the state, and its use has risen among younger adult populations due to its easy obtainability, very low price, high purity, and favorable reputation compared with crack. According to the DEA, most of the heroin found in Massachusetts cities originates in Southwest and Southeast Asia, and more recently Colombia, and is transported from New York.
- Marijuana

Marijuana continues to be easily obtainable in Massachusetts. Surveys and focus groups indicate that marijuana use among adolescents is common, approaching that of

cigarettes. Many teens mentioned that because they had grown bored with or developed a tolerance for marijuana, they had moved on to other drugs for a better or new high.

➤ **Stimulants**

While reports continue to suggest that amphetamines and methamphetamine are available in the Boston area, stimulant indicators remain low. Users are predominately young adults and college students. California is the likely source for most of the methamphetamine found in Massachusetts. State police have also reported a recent surge of MDMA/ecstasy seizures.

➤ **Depressants**

The tranquilizer ketamine has been reportedly popular and available in some Massachusetts communities.

Juveniles

- A 1999 survey of high school students in Massachusetts indicated that 50.2% of them had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime.¹⁶

Percent of Massachusetts High School Students Using Selected Drugs, 1999

	Female (%)	Male (%)	Total (%)
Lifetime Marijuana Use	47.1	53.0	50.2
Current Marijuana Use	27.4	33.8	30.6
Lifetime Cocaine Use	7.1	11.8	9.6
Current Cocaine Use	2.8	5.6	4.3
Lifetime Inhalant Use	12.2	16.5	14.4
Current Inhalant Use	2.7	5.3	4.1
Lifetime Heroin Use	2.4	4.9	3.8
Lifetime Methamphetamine Use	6.6	9.8	8.3
Lifetime Illegal Steroid Use	3.2	5.9	4.6
Lifetime Injecting Illegal Drug Use	1.6	3.6	2.7
Tried Marijuana Before Age 13	8.9	15.8	12.5

- The juvenile drug arrest rate in Massachusetts for 1997 declined 6.5% over 1996.¹⁷

Trafficking and Seizures

- In 1998 there were 4,133 marijuana plants eradicated in Massachusetts.¹⁸

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized in Massachusetts, 1998

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
73	2,979	6	1,154	4,133

- The Massachusetts State police lab reported that drug seizures overall for 1997 were about 10% higher than in 1996. Cocaine seizures still outnumber those for any drug except marijuana, with more cocaine HCl seized recently than crack.¹⁹

Consequences of Use

- From January to June 1999, there were 1,857 cocaine mentions in Emergency Departments (ED) in Boston.²⁰

Estimated Number of ED Drug Mentions, by Drug, Boston, January-June 1999

Cocaine	Heroin/Morphine	Marij./Hashish	Methamphetamine
1,857	1,385	1,055	9

- Heroin/morphine was mentioned 202 times by Boston Medical Examiners (ME) in drug-related deaths during 1998.²¹

Estimated Number of ME Drug Mentions, by Drug, Boston, 1996-98

	1996	1997	1998
Cocaine	134	107	145
Heroin/Morphine	141	176	202
Marijuana/Hashish	--	1	1
Methadone	10	7	10
Methamphetamine	2	2	--

Enforcement²²

- In 1998, Massachusetts had a total of 2,542 law enforcement employees.

Law Enforcement Employees, Massachusetts, 1998

<u>Officers</u>		<u>Civilians</u>		<u>Total</u>
Male	Female	Male	Female	
2,049	168	156	169	2,542

- New England HIDTA Initiatives in Massachusetts:²³
 - New England HIDTA Financial Task Force: This task force, found in Boston, is led by the U.S. Customs Service and will be staffed with Customs and IRS Special Agents and officers from the Massachusetts State Police and the Boston Police Department. The purpose of this task force is to identify, investigate, and prosecute large-scale drug money laundering organizations.
 - Greater Boston Task Force: Led by the FBI, this task force will target mid- to upper-level criminal organizations in the Greater Boston area.
 - Central Massachusetts Task Force: This task force is led by the DEA and consists of State, Federal, and local investigators targeting widespread criminal organizations in Central Massachusetts.

Court

- During FY98 the number of narcotics charges entered in Massachusetts District Court totaled 48,657 and represented 9.3% of all charges entered.²⁴

- During this same time, the number of juvenile narcotics charges entered in Massachusetts District Court totaled 1,914, representing 8% of all juvenile charges entered. This is a 42% decrease over the 3,301 juvenile narcotics charges entered in 1997.²⁵
- Drug Courts²⁶
 - There are a total of 17 drug courts in Massachusetts that have either already been implemented or are being planned (as of March 2000).
 - 3 drug courts have been in existence for over 2 years, 9 have recently been implemented, and 5 are being planned.

Corrections

- On January 1, 1999, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections had 10,356 criminally sentenced inmates in its population. The Massachusetts DOC is responsible for the commitment of inmates convicted in Superior Court of serious crimes.²⁷
- 22% of the total Massachusetts DOC inmate population, males and females, was incarcerated for drug offenses. For incarcerated females, the largest proportion of offenses fell under the drug offense category (36%).²⁸
- As of fall 1998, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections had 22 institutions and six levels of security.²⁹
- Massachusetts county sheriff's departments are responsible for housing persons in Houses of Correction. These offenders are sentenced mostly through the District Court system and their sentences are no more than 2½ years. Also included in these facilities are those persons awaiting trial in county jail. In 1998, 18,748 offenders were sentenced to Massachusetts county facilities.³⁰
- At year-end 1998, the probation population in Massachusetts totaled 46,567. The parole population at this time was 4,489.³¹

Treatment³²

- In FY 1998, 77% of the people admitted to State-funded substance abuse treatment programs with marijuana as their drug of choice were males.

Percent Admitted to Treatment, by Drug of Choice, Boston, 1997-98

Drug	1997		1998	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Cocaine/Crack	62	38	63	37
Heroin/Opiates	68	32	70	30
Marijuana	77	23	77	23

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

² Massachusetts Web Site: <http://www.magnet.state.ma.us>

³ New England HIDTA Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/enforce/hidta/ne-fs.html>

⁴ Massachusetts Web Site: <http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/gaad/welcome/index.htm>

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- ⁵ Drug-Free Communities Grantees:
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.fob/prevent/drugfree/1999/chart99.html>
- ⁶ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>
- ⁷ Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, *Building Partnerships for Safer Communities*, 1997.
- ⁸ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 1998*, October 1999:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/98cius.htm>
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- ²⁶ Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Clearinghouse and Technical Assistance Project, *Summary of Drug Court Activity by State and County*, March 31, 2000
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- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, *FY 2000 Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program Strategy*
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<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/ppus98.pdf>
- ³² CEWG, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse*, January 1999: <http://www.cdmgroup.com/cewg>

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